



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - June 17, 2002**

- ***In the West***, hot, dry weather continues to aggravate the effects of a major drought across the ***central and southern Rockies and the Southwest***, straining irrigation reserves and hampering wildfire containment efforts. Meanwhile, cooler weather and scattered showers are overspreading the ***Pacific Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, hot weather is maintaining heavy irrigation demands in an area from ***Nebraska southward into Texas***, where weekend showers provided only isolated and temporary relief to pastures and dryland summer crops. Elsewhere, cooler air is spreading into ***Montana***, following Sunday's high temperatures near 90 degrees F, while some lowland flooding persists in ***eastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, soggy fields continue to slow final summer crop planting in the ***Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys***, but conditions elsewhere in the ***Midwest*** remain mostly favorable for corn and soybean development.
- ***In the South***, beneficial showers continue to ease irrigation requirements and aid pastures and summer crops in the ***southern Atlantic and eastern Gulf Coast regions***. Meanwhile in the ***Delta***, recent topsoil moisture improvements are aiding summer crops.

**Outlook:** During the first half of the week, periods of rain will spread across the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern Plains***, while light showers will fall in the ***Southeast***. Mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***Midwestern, Mid-Atlantic, and New England States***, although isolated afternoon showers are possible. By mid-week, showers will increase across the ***Southeast and Delta***. Farther north, a slow-moving cold front will bring showers to the ***central Plains and Great Lakes region***, but warm, dry weather will prevail in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for June 22-26 calls for above-normal rainfall from ***southern California to the central Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest***. Below-normal precipitation is expected in the ***Pacific Northwest, southern Arizona, and Florida***. Temperatures are expected to be warmer than normal throughout the ***eastern half of the nation***, but near normal elsewhere.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)